

April 25, 2003

RE: Forum on Forest Sustainability Issues and Indicators for Baltimore County

Dear Invitee:

I am writing to invite you to participate in an upcoming Forum on Forest Sustainability Issues and Indicators for Baltimore County. The Forum, co-sponsored by the US Forest Service, American Forests, Sustainable Measures, Inc., and Baltimore County DEPRM, will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2003 from 9 AM to 4 PM at Oregon Ridge Park. The forum is part of the *Linking Communities to the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators* project. You are among a select group of more than 60 invitees identified for this Forum.

The key questions that the Forum will address include:

- Are we all, collectively, managing Baltimore County's forest resources for sustainability that meets both public and private needs over the long-term, and what are the issues for achieving sustainable forests?
- What are the indicators that we can all agree on that will help to measure collective progress towards that vision of a sustainable forest in Baltimore County?
- Who needs to be involved in ongoing discussions and assessment of our progress?

It is important to note that the "we" referred to in the above questions is not just DEPRM. As you know, Baltimore County is rich not only in forest resources but also in organizations that are managing and are concerned about those resources. DEPRM plays an important role but many other organizations need to be involved in ensuring the long range sustainability of Baltimore County's forest resources. These organization include both public and private interests and reflect a variety of interests and scales (local, regional and state). The goals of the organizations are diverse but highly interrelated and include air and water quality, biodiversity conservation, private sector forest products, recreation, and community aesthetics.

Enclosed is an agenda for the Forum and directions to Oregon Ridge Park.

I hope that you will be able to join us. In the event that you can not attend, I ask that you send an alternate who can represent your interest area or organization. As attendance is limited and we need to confirm the number of attendees for lunch, I request that you respond to us as soon as possible, and by May 19 at the latest. Please respond to Mr. Donald Outen of my staff, at 410-887-4488 x 238, or douten@co.ba.md.us.

We look forward to your participation in helping define our future course of action for sustainable management of the forest resources of Baltimore County.

Sincerely,

David A. C. Carroll,
Director

DAAC/dco

Enclosure

c: Ruth McWilliams, USDA Forest Service
Gerald Gray, American Forests
Maureen Hart, Sustainable Measures, Inc.